



March 6, 2025

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
U.S. Senate
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Blackburn and Klobuchar:

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) applauds your leadership in ensuring continued access to life-saving cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services through the introduction of the ***Sustainable Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Services in the Home Act*** (S. 248). Your bipartisan efforts to permanently extend Medicare coverage for in-home cardiopulmonary rehabilitation services will improve patient outcomes, reduce hospital readmissions, and provide critical support to seniors recovering from serious cardiovascular events.

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States, claiming the lives of more than 600,000 Americans each year. Cardiopulmonary rehabilitation has been shown to significantly reduce the risk of rehospitalization and mortality, yet many Medicare beneficiaries face barriers in accessing these essential services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, temporary policy changes allowed for Medicare reimbursement of in-home virtual rehabilitation services, ensuring that patients—especially those in rural and underserved areas—could receive the care they needed. However, this policy expired in 2023, abruptly cutting off access to rehabilitation for many vulnerable patients.

The ***Sustainable Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Services in the Home Act*** is a commonsense solution that builds on the innovative care models developed during the pandemic. By permanently expanding Medicare coverage for supervised in-home rehabilitation, this legislation will provide Medicare beneficiaries with greater flexibility in their recovery, particularly for those who may face mobility challenges or live far from medical facilities. Additionally, by lowering hospital readmission rates and improving long-term outcomes, this bill will help reduce overall healthcare costs and alleviate strain on an already overburdened healthcare system.

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The Mission of the American College of Cardiology and the American College of Cardiology Foundation is to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health for all.

On behalf of the ACC and the cardiovascular community, we urge swift passage of this important bipartisan legislation. Expanding access to home-based cardiopulmonary rehabilitation is a critical step toward modernizing Medicare policy and ensuring that all patients, regardless of location or mobility, can receive the high-quality care they need to recover and thrive.

For any questions or to discuss further, please contact Adrienne Mortimer, Associate Director of Legislative Affairs, at AMortimer@acc.org or John Kristan, Associate Director of Legislative Affairs, at JKristan@acc.org.

Sincerely,



Cathleen Biga, MSN, FACC
President
American College of Cardiology

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) is the global leader in transforming cardiovascular care and improving heart health for all. As the preeminent source of professional medical education for the entire cardiovascular care team since 1949, ACC credentials cardiovascular professionals in over 140 countries who meet stringent qualifications and leads in the formation of health policy, standards, and guidelines. Through its world-renowned family of JACC Journals, NCDR registries, ACC Accreditation Services, global network of Member Sections, CardioSmart patient resources, and more, the College is committed to ensuring a world where science, knowledge, and innovation optimize patient care and outcomes. Learn more at www.ACC.org or follow @ACCinTouch.

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